

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 307

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Denise LaSalle for her contributions to the world of music.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those fine Tennesseans who bring the joys of artistic expression and culture through their vast musical talent to the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Jackson, Denise LaSalle is one such deserving Tennessean who has successfully recorded music for more than three decades; she is also an accomplished songwriter and producer; and

WHEREAS, born July 16, 1939, as Denise Craig, Ms. LaSalle would eventually and rightfully claim the title of the Queen of Soul Blues; and

WHEREAS, during her twenties, Ms. LaSalle wrote songs and visited with blues musicians in the Chicago clubs while she worked as a bar maid; and

WHEREAS, she got her first break when a representative from Chess Records, Billy “The Kid” Emerson, listened to one of her songs and brought her down to Chess Records; although the company signed Ms. LaSalle on as a vocalist, it never recorded her music; and

WHEREAS, Denise LaSalle eventually signed with Westbound Records and had her first big hit in 1971, with the number one R&B song, “Trapped By a Thing Called Love”; that sensation was followed by two more R&B hits, “Now Run and Tell That,” and “A Mansized Job”; and

WHEREAS, she signed with ABC Records in 1976, recording *Second Breath*, and *Under the Influence*, before the label was sold to MCA Records in 1979; for MCA, she recorded *Unwrapped*, and *Guaranteed*; and

WHEREAS, she joined the Malaco Records family in December of 1982 and scored with her 1983 smash hit album *Lady in the Street*; fans embraced her remake of ZZ Hills' "Down Home Blues" with its sassy rap introduction, and "Don't Mess With My Man"; and

WHEREAS, this top female Soul Blues Artist stayed at Malaco until 1997, recording a number of successful albums, including *Right Place Right Time*, *Love Talking*, *Still Trapped*, and *Smoking In Bed*; she recorded the popular singles, "Drop That Zero," "Don't Mess With My Tu Tu," "Don't Cry No More," "Why Am I Missing You," and "I Forgot To Remember"; and

WHEREAS, Denise LaSalle surprised the music world with the 1999 release of the Gospel CD, *God's Got My Back*, for Angel In The Midst Records, a label owned by her husband, the minister James E. Wolfe, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, she recorded *This Real Woman*, a double volume CD containing a mix of blues, country, and pop songs; the album is considered one of the most interesting and colorful albums of her career; and

WHEREAS, with an unparalleled vocal prowess, Denise LaSalle made her Ecko Records debut in October 2002, with *Still the Queen*, including such powerful songs as "Unlovable Habits," and the soul-stirring "There's No Separation," which was inspired by the events of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is recognized throughout the world as the home of a wide range of musical excellence, and the cities of this great State resound with the rich and colorful sound of that music, a sound to which Denise LaSalle has added her own distinct voice; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize the illustrious career and the extraordinary talents of one of Tennessee's most gifted singers and musicians; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Denise LaSalle, the Queen of Soul Blues, on her legendary musical talent as a performing artist and entertainer, commend her on her singular contributions to the music industry, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.